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On the run

In the two months since the federal election, Vance Badawey hasn't let the grass grow under his feet
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Fresh start

The new year marks the beginning of a new life for a Syrian family moving to Port Colborne
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INPORT NEWS

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Hockey diplomacy



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/
POSTMEDIA
NETWORK
Port Colborne Mayor John Maloney presents hockey players from the Russian Women's Under-18 hockey team with Canada Russia pins at the Port Colborne new year's levee on recently. Please see story page A7.

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UPFRONT

■ 2015 NEWSMAKER: New Niagara Centre MP

Badawey wasting no time

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Vance Badawey hasn't had much time to rest since Oct. 19.

"We haven't let the grass grow under our feet," he said. "We've come out the gate running."

In the two months since the Oct. 19 federal election, when he was swept in to power alongside Liberal party representatives across the country in what has been described as a red tsunami, some of Badawey's time has been spent meeting with regional chair Alan Cassin, as well as the mayors of all the municipalities within the Niagara Centre riding, including St. Catharines, Thorold, Welland and Port Colborne.

Badawey has set up his constituency office in Port Colborne at the Port Cares office, he plans to set up an office at a yet to be determined location in Thorold or south St. Catharines, and he's in the process of setting up a second office at the Mews Plaza, 136 East Main St. in Welland.

He selected the office because it's central to the riding and easily accessible to constituents.

"I wanted to be right in the heart of downtown Welland," he said.

And Badawey has already discussed Niagara Centre issues in the House of Commons on two occasions, including the Julia Turner memorial hockey game collecting donations for Hope Centre and the importance of supporting food banks, as well as the government's plans for \$125 billion in infrastructure spending and the residual benefits of that investment.

And the work has only just begun.

He said he heard from a lot of people during the last year. And he intends to spend the years to come working to address the issues that are foremost on the minds of his constituents.

"We're listening. We're



Niagara Centre MP Vance Badawey stands in his constituency office, under renovation on East Main Street in Welland.

going to govern by what we hear, not what we perceive," Badawey said.

"It's going to be a constant level of communication with the businesses, with the residents, with different organizations, NGOs, etc."

He said he expects to hear about issues such as the middle class, health care, support for seniors, an open and transparent government, opportunities for youth, a clean environment and a strong economy, and security.

As the next federal budget is developed, Badawey plans to make certain local residents have a say on how their tax dollars are spent.

In January, he plans to hold "pre-budget" consultation meetings with the public, busi-

nesses and elected officials to discuss spending priorities for 2016.

He said the federal government is currently working to roll out the planned \$125 billion in infrastructure funding as quickly as possible.

"We want to ensure that it's done right and it's targeted to the areas that it's target to," he said.

With that in mind, he said he met with the mayors of local municipalities and the regional chair, Niagara College and Brock University and business community to determine what the local needs are, and what investments are needed for the riding and the region.

"I have all their wish lists now in hand, and with that

it will be my job to promote their needs at the federal level," he said. "We've already started doing that."

But with 338 ridings across the country each vying for a piece of that funding, he said the government will need to ensure that the investments it makes ensure the greatest impact in the communities, and that the investment has an impact beyond the borders of the riding.

Badawey also plans to keep his finger on the pulse of the region, by spending as much time as possible within the communities he calls home.

"My intent is to spend more time here than any member ever has," he said.

But he doesn't plan to limit himself to just the borders of

the Niagara Centre riding.

"It's not just about the riding. It's also about the entire region. I'm not going to confine my efforts just to Niagara Centre."

In addition to fellow Liberal MP Chris Bittle representing St. Catharines, Badawey said he wants to work with Conservative MPs Rob Nicholson from Niagara Falls and Dean Allison from Niagara West.

"Let's put party politics aside and let's ensure that the No. 1 priority is our constituents, not party politics."

He said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has made it very clear that the federal government is committed to serving people across the country, regardless of the political

party representing the various 338 ridings across the country.

"That ensures that you don't have your have and have not constituents."

In the past, ridings represented by opposition parties "were perceived as being looked at as secondary," he said.

"Well, no more. The new way of governing with this government is to ensure that everyone is front and centre."

If there's a need in a particular riding, regardless of the political party representing the people of that riding, "we're going to address it."

By working together with neighbouring ridings throughout southwestern Ontario, Badawey hopes to address issues that could benefit the entire area.

We're going to start a southwestern Ontario gateway caucus including MPs from Niagara and Windsor.

As part of that caucus, Badawey plans to bring forward the idea of creating a new trade corridor for Ontario.

"The No. 1 issue that I'm going to bring forward is: some people call it the mid-peninsula corridor, I call it the 402 Highway. That's going to create a second trade corridor for the province of Ontario."

That highway would travel from Sarnia to Niagara, connecting the Bluewater Bridge with the international bridges in the region.

That highway would be another aspect of Niagara's place as a multi-modal transportation hub, within a day's drive of more than 44% of North America's annual income.

"We have rail, water, road and air," he said. "Transport in general is huge for this region, because that's our niche. We can't underestimate that niche, and that's one of the reasons I've dubbed our riding as Canada's Canal Corridor."

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **REFUGEES:** Port Colborne church welcomes family to Canada



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Donna Kalalief, co-ordinator for the refugee project, and Rev. Robert Hurkmans of St. James and St. Brendan Church in Port Colborne share their excitement on the sponsorship approval of two Syrian refugee families who will be living in Port Colborne. One family arrived Friday.

New year means a new beginning for Syrian refugees

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

The new year marks the beginning of a new life for a Syrian family moving to Port Colborne.

Members of St. James and St. Brendan Anglican Church welcomed one of two families they have sponsored.

After months of fundraising, and hard work, the church was contacted Wednesday and informed one of their families would arrive in Toronto on New Year's Eve. The fam-

ily of four arrived after a long journey from Lebanon. Members of the church made a trip to Toronto on New Year's Day to welcome the family to Canada.

"We are pretty excited, it feels like a blessing. With the new year, it feels really special," said Donna Kalalief, co-ordinator for the refugee project.

Kalalief said the family's arrival is a "wonderful Christmas gift" and it feels like a gift to the church.

"It's a pretty exciting day for

the family as well," she said.

The church has chosen to keep certain details private. Kalalief said Port Colborne is a small community, so "we want to protect their privacy while they transition."

The church began working toward sponsoring a family about nine months ago, and ended up sponsoring two families. The families are related and the church chose to help them stay together.

Rev. Rob Hurkmans said the congregation accepted a challenge to make a differ-

ence in the Syrian refugee crisis. When they found out the family they were sponsoring had relatives in the same refugee camp they wanted to make sure the families could stay together.

Church members also felt it would give the families a good support system when they start settling into their new lives.

Kalalief said the church doesn't know yet when the second family will arrive.

The church managed to find two apartments close to

one another, so when the second family arrives they won't have to travel too far to see each other.

The apartments have been furnished with some necessities, including beds.

Kalalief said church members didn't want to completely furnish the house because they want to make sure it feels like home to the family. She wants to give the family the opportunity to go shopping and pick out some things they like, so they feel more settled.

Kalalief said donations are always welcome.

The Synod of the Diocese of Niagara has assisted the Port Colborne church throughout the process of sponsorship. The diocese has been a private sponsor of refugees for several decades.

"Sponsoring a refugee family doesn't just change their life, it changes everyone's life," Bishop Michael Bird of the Anglican Diocese of Niagara said in a news release.

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■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

Ricci's book on Jesus is pure fantasy

FATHER DAVID GRAHAM SCOTT
St. Ignatius of Antioch Orthodox Church

Before Christmas I attended a reading by the Canadian novelist Nino Ricci at Roselawn in Port Colborne. Ricci was reading from his latest novel, *Sleep*. It's about David Pace, a professor whose sleep deprivation led him into bizarre behaviours.

In the question period a woman asked him why he had written his 2002 novel, *Testament*, about Jesus.

Ricci said Jesus was such a major historical figure, that our year dates are based on his birth.

Ricci also mentioned that Jesus had some remarkable insights, especially the one found in the non-canonical, Gnostic Gospel of Thomas, a collection of 114 sayings. The insight was that the Kingdom of God is within you.

I immediately wondered why Ricci said that this insight came from a Gnostic Gospel

when that later work got it from Luke 17 verse 21.

Ricci seemed unaware of the last saying in the Gospel of Thomas, number 114: "Simon Peter said to them, 'Let Mary (Magdalene) leave us, for women are not worthy of life.' Jesus said, 'I myself shall lead her in order to make her male. For every woman who will make herself male will inherit the kingdom of heaven.'"

The Gnostic Gospel of Thomas in Coptic dates from about 400 AD. The original Greek might date to 150 AD. John A.T. Robinson dates Luke's Gospel at 57 to 60 AD; Joseph Fitzmeyer, SJ, dates Luke at about 65 AD.

But I thought I would see if Ricci's novel *Testament* was in our library. It was and I read it. It viewed Jesus from four different persons' experiences of him. The first part was Judas Iscariot's view; the second was Mary Magdalene's; the third was his mother Mary's; and the fourth was a Gentile's view. Ricci's portraits of Jesus have hardly any relation to the canonical Gospels of Matthew,

Mark, Luke and John.

Two things struck me about Ricci's novel. First, every reference to God was written god. This suggests that Ricci writes as an atheist and materialist, and if so, his portrait of Jesus is necessarily skewed. Ricci portrays Jesus as moody and unsure of himself. I wonder how such a neurotic person could change history and have our years numbered after his birth.

Second, Ricci has Jesus's mother Mary say that she had been raped by a Roman officer and that Jesus was the result. So basically Ricci used any source except 98 per cent of the canonical Gospels for his novel. In his author's note he says that it "is a work of fiction."

I have long known that our Lord's enemies spread the rumour that Jesus was illegitimate and the son of a Roman soldier. And one of the fascinating things about Matthew's genealogy of Christ is that it includes four women: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba.

Tamar was Jacob's son Judah's daughter in law and committed incest with him.

Rahab was a prostitute in Jericho; she was King David's great-grandmother. Ruth, a Moabitess, was David's grandmother. And finally David himself seduced Uriah's wife Bathsheba, and their son Solomon succeeded him as king. These four references were oblique rebuttals of this illegitimacy rumour spread by the enemies of Jesus.

Christ's enemies also spread the rumor that while the soldiers guarding Jesus's tomb were asleep, his disciples came and stole his body (Matthew 28). But a corpse could not so change history that we date our years from his birth.

I do not recommend Nino Ricci's book, *Testament*. It is mere fantasy. Our Gospels may be strange, but they are true. Byron wrote, "Tis strange, but true, for truth is always strange — stranger than fiction."

As for Nino Ricci, St. Ignatius told us to pray for such people, because there is them a hope of repentance. And so we have prayed for him at three liturgies.

Shipwrecks: The Alpena catches fire in shipyard

SKIP GILLHAM
Special to Postmedia Network

A major fire broke out aboard the cement carrier Alpena at the Saugeen Bay shipyard on Dec. 11, 2015. The blaze roared through the galley, kitchen, aft accommodations, a storage area, electrical controls and steering gear and proved a real challenge for the many area firefighters.

The vessel was undergoing winter work and, at this writing, there was no determination as to the cost or viability of repairing the 74 year old ship. Originally the ore carrier Leon Fraser, the ship was shortened and rebuilt for the cement trade as Alpena in 1991.

It has been a Welland Canal trader and came through the local waterway as recently as last September.



The Alpena came through the local waterway as recently as last September.

MATT MINER / PHOTO

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■ NATURE

Warmer weather affects Christmas Bird Count

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Volunteers quietly walked on freshly fallen snow as they tried not to make any noise during the annual Christmas Bird Count in Port Colborne.

The volunteers were chasing birds as part of the annual Christmas Bird Count in Port Colborne. There were nine groups, each covering an area of Port Colborne. The count area stretched 15 miles in diameter, starting at Long Beach and ending at Sheraton Shores. Each group covered an assigned area and started its count at 8 a.m., finishing at about 5 p.m.

The Port Colborne bird count was organized by Drew Campbell, a lifelong birder. Campbell, originally from Thorold, lives in Cheektowaga, N.Y.

Campbell started bird watching and counting birds about 65 years ago. When he was younger Campbell used to hunt, and said his father and uncle would collect the bird's eggs.

Campbell learned about

different birds by identifying the eggs.

He studied biology and environmental geography at Brock University and after graduation was hired as an instructor for a bird watching course in the part-time studies program.

"I just got into chasing birds and I'm probably in the top 10 in Canada and top 10 in Ontario for birding," he said. "So I'm one of the top bird guys, I guess. And in North America, I'm in the top 150."

Campbell said over the years he has seen a decline in bird numbers. He said lower counts have been throughout Niagara and "throughout everywhere."

Many birds in Niagara are in danger. Campbell said global warming and habitat destruction are two major causes of bird loss.

"Wherever those houses are, that's where birds used to be nesting," Campbell said.

Carol O'Shea, a volunteer from Buffalo, has been part of the Christmas Bird Count



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Port Colborne Christmas Bird Count volunteers line up along the side of Babion Road to take a better look at a flock of birds in some bushes.

for about 10 years. Birding has become a real passion for O'Shea.

"A lot of the birding I do is to make a difference and to increase knowledge. It gives us an idea of how the birds are doing. If they are expanding their territories, etc," she said.

Brad Clements, a volunteer from Welland, said when trying to determine whether the counts are up or down, you

have to look at a few years of data.

Campbell said the counts have been down everywhere, not just in Niagara.

The most interesting bird volunteers saw on Saturday was a

red-tailed hawk. Campbell said because of the warmer weather this winter, the hawks have stayed around. If there is snow coverage they can't get their food and will fly somewhere else.

Campbell said the birds

haven't been forced to feeders, so they are all over the place, something that makes it harder to find and count the birds.

Campbell saw a fair amount of ducks on Saturday because there isn't "a lot of ice out on the lake."

Campbell said due to the weather "now we can see a long way out and there aren't a lot of ducks way out there."

"So whatever ducks we are seeing we are seeing pretty easily with binoculars."

The bird count was not completed before press time, but Campbell said 33 species were spotted. Normally, about 60 species are counted, and counts can go as high as 80.

For more information about the Christmas Bird Count and volunteering, visit <http://www.ontariosnature.org/>.

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Heather Price

■ IIHF-U18 WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

St. Catharines ready for puck to drop

KARENA WALTER
Postmedia Network

St. Catharines will welcome the world this week as Meridian Centre gets set to host its first international sporting event.

The best young female hockey players from eight countries will be arriving for the International Ice Hockey Federation's Under-18 Women's World Championship running Jan. 8-15.

The event is projected to bring \$4 million in economic activity to the city and province, feature high-quality competitive hockey, shine an international

spotlight on the downtown arena and host a family-friendly street party to boot.

Single game tickets go on sale today ranging from \$5 to \$20 plus fees, but the community has already set record ticket sales for the championships by purchasing packages.

"It's great to see the community get behind the event," said Matt Hill, general manager of the event. "Every ticket now that we're selling is going to set an attendance record for this event, which is fantastic."

Hill said 15,000 to 16,000 tickets have been sold, leav-

ing each game with a few hundred to a thousand tickets available.

The event's previous ticket record was 12,000.

Big organizers originally projected a total 10,000 attendees in St. Catharines. Hill attributed the big response to the growing popularity of women's hockey and the community's enthusiasm for sports.

"With this event, this is the first time that a lot of these girls will represent their country within their sport. It's essentially the next generation of Olympians coming into our hometown," Hill said.

He said there's been a growth of the women's game over the past five to 15 years with players such as Hayley Wickenhiser, Brienne Jenner and Marie-Philip Poulin becoming well known.

"There's lots of household names now within the women's game which I think speaks tremendously to the growth of the sport."

THE PUCK STOPS HERE

What: 2016 IIHF Under-18 Women's World Championship

When: January 8-15

Where: Meridian Centre, 1 IceBos Way, St. Catharines (four games are at Seymour-Hanham, 240 St. Paul St. W.)

Tickets: Online at Ticketmaster or from the Meridian Centre Box Office. Teams: Group A: Canada, Czech Republic, Russia and U.S.A.; Group B: Finland, Sweden, Switzerland and France, which is entering the competition for the first time.

Partners: Hockey Canada, Ontario Women's Hockey Association and Niagara Sport Commission. More information: www.hockeycanada.ca/2016Niagara

Host committee chairman Bill Fenwick said on top of the ticket sales, the event has given 7,000 tickets away free to about 40 elementary and secondary schools.

"We want to make sure the under-18 girls have a good crowd to play in front of," Fenwick said.

"I think what people are going to find is the quality of play of these girls is phenomenal. Most people know what boy's hockey is about, but I don't think they realize the quality and growth of women's hockey in Canada and in the world."

For the young players, Fenwick said the tournament provides an experience to see the quality of play on a world stage and decide if they want to further their hockey career.

For spectators, he said it's an opportunity to see players who will be on their national teams down the road.

"These are going to be the future representatives of their nation on the world scene in women's hockey," Fenwick said. "It's a real opportunity for people to come out and see that right before them in St. Catharines and the Niagara region."

Hill said Switzerland's team was the first to arrive last Wednesday, with Russia coming in on Thursday so its members could attend the New Year's Eve celebration in Niagara Falls.

The 300 to 320 participants, including athletes, coaches, trainers and officials, are all staying in St. Catharines hotels for the 10 days, Hill said.

Four teams — Russia, Sweden, Czech Republic and Finland — are training in Niagara while the Canadian, Swiss, U.S. and French teams will train in the Greater Toronto Area.

COOL PARTY

A family-friendly Fan Fest street party will be held Saturday in downtown St. Catharines.

Activities, entertainment and an inflatable rink for ball hockey will be on St. Paul Street from about 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

St. Paul St. will be closed to vehicle traffic between William and James streets, where the pedestrian bridges to Meridian Centre are located.

A handful of the games will be held at the Seymour-Hanham complex but the vast majority of the action takes place at the Meridian.

"One of the strengths of our bid was that this was a brand new facility and in a way this launches the facility onto the international sports stage," Hill said.

"The venue is a game-changer."

St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sendzik said there's a tremendous amount of energy leading up to the tournament.

"I think it's going to be exciting to watch women play hockey at the Meridian Centre at an international level and I think the people of St. Catharines will showcase that we can host these kinds of world-class events at that level."

Sendzik said St. Catharines has a passion for sport, pointing to the sold-out venue for Pan Am rowing medal rounds and the 2,800 attendees for the first Niagara Lions basketball game.

"I think that's something we should be proud of. We embrace sport just as much or more than a lot of other communities in Canada and this is a demonstration of it."

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Ringing in the new year with Russian hockey team

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Port Colborne Mayor John Maloney welcomed some special Russia guests on Sunday afternoon.

The Russian women's under-18 hockey team attended Port Colborne city council's annual New Year's Levee. Team members were presented with pins, which featured the Canadian and Russian flags, as well as welcome packages.

Despite the language barrier, and the use of a translator who wasn't completely fluent in English, the team enjoyed meeting members from the

community.

Maloney said he saw a lot of smiles Sunday and was satisfied everyone enjoyed themselves.

"Sometimes, we can break down barriers with sports," he said.

Yevgeni Belousov, a Russian Ice Hockey Federation official, said everyone on the team enjoyed being in Port Colborne where it is training for the world championships beginning Friday in St. Catharines. He said the players are having a good time practising at Vale Health and Wellness Centre.

Belousov said he felt it was important to attend the levee because "I feel it's important to the city we are here."

Port Colborne Coun. Bea Kenny said she is a hockey fan and was excited to meet the team.

"Just to have them here in Port Colborne is very nice. It's just great they took an hour out of their day to join us," Kenny said.

Maloney was just as thrilled to

host the team at this year's levee. He said it was "special to have the girls' team here from Russia."

The levee is an annual event that provides community members the opportunity to meet with the mayor and town councillors.

Levees are hosted by govern-

ments and the military, among others, to welcome in the new year and the social events offer the public the chance to meet community leaders. Maloney said he enjoys the opportunity to listen to what people have to say and answer any questions they might have.



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■ **SHIPPING:** Seaway closed this morning

Port Colborne bridge to reopen by April 1

ALLAN DENNER
Postmedia Network

The worst may be over for Port Colborne businesses, after months of being isolated between two closed bridges.

Although Bridge 19 on Main Street is not expected to reopen until April 1, Kathy Fedson, who owns the Deli on Main, said just having the weir bridge reopened at the start of December "made a world of difference" to her business.

Bridge 19 was closed to traffic after it was damaged in a collision with the cargo ship *Levi* on Sept. 30. At the same time, the weir bridge — about a half-kilometre west along Main Street — was closed to traffic for about seven weeks while it was being rebuilt in a scheduled project by St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp.

Seaway spokesman Jean Aubry-Morin said repair work on Bridge 19 is expected to begin within the next few weeks. The 2015 shipping season ended this morning at 6.

The closure of the two bridges left several area business owners concerned that the lack of traffic on Main Street — Highway 3 — might lead to the closure of their businesses as well. Nevertheless, the businesses owners managed to keep their doors open.

"If it wasn't for people who know the business and came over here anyway, we wouldn't have made it," Fedson said.

She said she watched as vehicles made U-turns on Main Street to avoid the construction. And all the businesses in the area were affected, regardless of their size.

"People were avoiding coming down Main Street because you couldn't get anywhere," she said. "And two months is a long time."

Mel Einbaugh, owner of The Dukes & Duches' Antiques & Collectibles, as well as an adjacent cafe, said coping with the bridge closures was difficult.

"We lost probably half our business," she said.

But workers rebuilding the weir bridge helped her keep the doors open, becoming regular customers at the cafe while the work was underway, Einbaugh said.

"They came in for coffee every day," she said.

Aubry-Morin said the goal is to reopen the canal bridge to traffic by April 1 — about a week after the seaway is expected to reopen for the 2016 season.

Although the cost of the repair is not being publicly released, Aubry-Morin said "it's substantial."

The collision with the ship twisted a main girder supporting the bridge deck, requiring significant repairs.

"Because of the nature of the bridge and the load capacity that it has to have to hold heavy traffic, the bridge needs to be able to take the load of repeated stress," he said.

"We must repair it to keep the standards that the bridge has."

Aubry-Morin said the seaway's shipping season was originally scheduled to end at 11:59 p.m. last Wednesday, but was delayed for six hours to allow a few more ships to take advantage of the mild weather and pass through the waterway.

Although seaway manage-

ment had considered keeping the waterway open even longer, he said there wasn't enough demand among shipping companies to warrant extending season further.

"Unfortunately the trade demand at this point is soft to the point that it wouldn't be

commercially viable to keep the system open going further," he said.

"It would have been a great story to keep going until the first or second week of January, but there was very little demand to justify keeping the system going for only a few

ships."

Aubry-Morin said statistics for the 2015 shipping season have yet to be released, but so far it appears to be on par with 2014 when 40 million tonnes of cargo passed through the waterway.

Despite a slow start to the

shipping season, the amount of cargo passing through the waterway steadily increased throughout the year.

"October and November were almost record setting," he said. "If we compare the total aggregate versus last year, it's almost on par."

Underground Transmission Line — Notice of Road Closure Mountainview Road

For the Niagara Region Wind Project, FWRN

Project Name

Project Location

Notice Dated At

Niagara Region Wind Project (the "Project")

Within the Townships of West Lincoln and Wainfleet and the Town of Lincoln in the Niagara Region and Haldimand County in Southern Ontario

Haldimand County and Niagara Region, the 11th of January 2016.

Niagara Region Wind Corporation, now FWRN LP (the "Proponent"), is engaging in a renewable energy project for which a Renewable Energy Approval ("REA") was issued by the Ministry of the Environment (now the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change) on November 21, 2014.

Project Description

The Project is located within the Townships of West Lincoln and Wainfleet and the Town of Lincoln in the Niagara Region and Haldimand County in Southern Ontario. The Project will consist of 77 wind turbine generators, step-up transformer, electrical collector lines, a transmission line, two transformer substations, turbine access roads and construction staging areas. The Project will have a total maximum nameplate capacity of up to 230 MW.

Underground Transmission Line — Road Closure

Vault and duct bank installations, along with underground trenching will begin on Mountainview Road starting Jan. 11th, 2016. The road closure would be from: Jan. 11th to 16th. Detours for this road closure are: South Service Road to Lincoln Avenue to Greenlane (see diagram above). Please note that public services (i.e. mail delivery, garbage pick-up, school buses, etc.) may be disrupted during this time.

If you have any obstructions in the right-of-way near your property (e.g. fences, private gas lines, gardens, tiles, electrical lines), please contact Shiloh Berriman (contact information below).

Project Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the Project's construction phase, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

NIAGARA REGION WIND PROJECT CONTACT

Shiloh Berriman
Email: shiloh.berriman@enrcon.ca
Cell: 289-683-2563

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

General Number: 819-363-6491
Toll Free: 1-844-363-6491
Project email: info@nrwf.ca
Project website: www.nrwf.ca



ALLAN DENNER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Repair work on Bridge 19 in Port Colborne is expected to begin soon, following the end of the St. Lawrence Seaway shipping season, but it will take until April 1 before the bridge reopens.



LOCAL NEWS

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NATIONAL POST

THE TRIBUNE

■ TAKING THE PLUNGE

Chippawa chills out for polar bear dip

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

After a relatively balmy December, polar bear dip season was looking less frigid this year in Niagara.

That all changed Saturday. With temperatures hovering around 1°C all day, the chill was back for the fifth annual Chippawa Public Docks Committee Polar Bear Dip. Nearly a hundred brave souls tried to stay warm before rushing into a bitterly cold Welland River off the Chippawa boat ramp on Lyons Creek Road.

Chippawa's Christen Anderson, 14, took the plunge last year, and was joined by her 16-year-old sister Mercedes Saturday.

"She wants me to freeze to death," said Mercedes, who said she took some "ice cold" baths to prepare for the event.

"It looks fun to do, and it's part of the community. Now I can say I did the polar bear dip."

Christen said there's no way to prepare for the dive — once the water hits, it takes your breath away.

"And then your feet are so cold," she said, adding it took 30 minutes to warm back up last year. "(I had) lots of hot chocolate."

The siblings made it a contest this year. If Christen didn't stay in the river for at least 15 seconds, she had to

cough up \$10.

"It feels like an hour, apparently," said Mercedes with a grin.

Dressed in gladiator gear, John Thompson of Niagara Falls dove in for the second straight year. He finds jumping in the water "less of a shock" in winter than summer because of the temperature difference, but it's still jarring.

"I mean, how do you prepare for that?"

The store manager for PartSource on Lundy's Lane encourages his employees to make the dive for Jumpstart Charities, which helps raise funds to enable kids to participate in sports who can't otherwise afford it.

The Chippawa Public Docks Committee started the dip to help raise funds for future projects, but co-chairman Dan Tibbs said it's mainly to get the community together for a fun start to the year "instead of sitting around the house."

Residents have responded by making it one of the largest and most colourful polar bear/penguin dips in the region. Some, like Eddy Booker, have taken the dive every year.

To mark his fifth time out, Booker — a crowd favourite every year — jumped in five times.

"Next year, I'll be going for six."

john.law@sunmedia.ca

Announcement

Tim and Dianne Sturman of Port Colborne Ontario would like to announce their retirement from Glenmount Memorials Inc. effective December 31st 2015. Glenmount was acquired by Garth and Allison Nelson of Kitchener Waterloo Ontario owners of **"Stone Centre Inc., Ontario's Largest Retail Monument Company."**

The company will continue to operate as Glenmount Memorials. The offices will continue to be managed by long time employees and OMA Certified Master Memorialists, Joanne Sabourin CMM in Welland and Lorri Ursacki CMM in Port Colborne.

In its long-standing tradition of serving the communities and families of the Niagara Region, Glenmount will continue to provide the highest quality products and personal, attentive service to its customers.

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LOCAL NEWS

COMMUNITY



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK
Cheryl Swayze and Jeff Bell welcome their new year's baby boy into the world surrounded by family on Sunday.

Welland family welcomes new year's baby

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Cheryl Swayze and Jeff Bell met someone at the beginning of 2016 they've been waiting to meet for quite some time.

After the Welland residents made their way to St. Catharines hospital Saturday night, the introduction to their fourth child – seven-pound, one-ounce Travis James Bell – was delayed four hours, due to labour.

But all is well after his 1:04 a.m. debut Sunday and surgery Swayze needed a few hours later to clear up complications.

She described the labour as "pretty easy" and said while she was tired, she was feeling good and eager to go home.

The happy mom and proud pop chose

the middle name to honour the baby's maternal great-grandfather who was born on the same day.

Swayze and Bell have three other children – Sandra Bell, 12; Brian Bell, 12; Jeffrey Bell, 8 – and, with the possible exception of the lone girl, all are excited about welcoming a new brother into their lives. Sandra, feigning disappointment, said she had been looking forward to having a baby sister.

"I'm upset and lonely," she said with a laugh.

Sandra said she probably will help mom change diapers, adding her young brothers probably won't be of any help in that department.

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■ ANIMAL CRUELTY



FACEBOOK PHOTO

A posting on Facebook threatening to make a Yorkie disappear led Niagara Regional Police to investigate.

Dog threatened in online posting safe, police say

KARENA WALTER
Postmedia Network

Police say a Yorkie is in safe hands after its owner threatened to make the dog "disappear Welland Cana-style" on an online website.

The posting, which comes months after a dog was found dead in the Welland Canal, drew a backlash on the Niagara Market Facebook site and led to a police investigation Sunday.

"Someone come buy this 10-month-old female Yorkie before (sic) the ghost busters come make it disappear welland canal style," the post said.

Niagara Regional Police Staff Sgt. Murray Hadley of the Niagara Falls detachment said police investigated and found the dog was returned by the owner to the breeder. The breeder has already found it another home.

Hadley said the posting was an attention-getter and police found the owner was not serious about throwing it in the canal. He wasn't charged.

"He had no intention of carrying out the threat whatsoever."

Hadley said police take these types of social media postings seriously.

NRP launched an investigation after receiving a complaint through its Facebook site Saturday. Police also received phone calls after the posting went viral.

"A lot of concerned people saw it on Facebook," Hadley said. "We investigated right away."

The dog had been returned to the

breeder before police were made aware of the posting.

The post comes just months after a German shepherd was found beaten, hogtied and floating in the Welland Recreational Canal by a group of young girls on April 28.

A post-mortem examination found the dog had been bound with an electrical cord and hit with blunt or sharp force. It was alive when it entered the water, suggesting the cause of death was drowning.

A \$5,500 reward for information on the person responsible has been offered by the combined efforts of U.S.-based PETA, Welland and District Humane Society, Queen Waldoff Fights Back! and members of the community.

The original post about the Yorkie on Niagara Market is believed to have been removed but a re-post by a concerned citizen on Saturday drew hundreds of angry responses. More than 350 comments were made before the re-post disappeared just before 2 p.m., many infuriated with the dog owner who goaded them on, telling them to all "hangoff" off. The poster could not be reached for comment.

"Somebody should find him and throw him in the canal," said one person.

"Think we should all show this punk what Welland style really means," said another.

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■ POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION



PHOTO SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK FROM NIAGARA COLLEGE

Oksana Sytchouk, a third-year culinary innovation and food technology program research assistant, is shown using a rotary evaporator for extracting oils and essences from botanical sources.

Niagara College, Brock climb research rankings

DON FRASER
Postmedia Network

Research and its practical use for firms has been top of mind at Niagara College. And here, food and wine, mechanical engineering, business administration and new media have led the way.

That focus is being fruitful, with a recent report naming the college as being among the top in Canada for research funding.

The report by Canada's Top 50 Research Colleges by Research Information Inc. places the college at No. 10. Its ranking was based on total research funding for 2014 and is two placings higher than last year.

Since that first report in 2013, the college had also moved up three rankings.

Niagara College has also ranked third among Ontario's five leading colleges, with bested only by Sheridan at No. 9 and George Brown, which topped the national research survey.

Using data from the past two years, the college's research funding also increased to \$5.34 million in 2014 from \$4.036 million in 2013 — up more than 32 per cent.

"It's important to be good at what you're good at and not try to be mediocre at everything," said Marc Pintel, associate vice-president of research and innovation at the college.

"By focusing our efforts where we had unique capabilities, where we could make a difference with local industry partners, then we managed to attract the funding and also the group projects with great students, industry and faculty partners."

"And that made it possible to attract more money and projects."

To that end, the college also saw a bump-up in the ranking in terms of partnerships and projects.

It moved to No. 5 from No. 8 among large colleges for the number of formal partnerships held, and No. 5 to No. 4 for successfully completed projects, a 26 per cent increase in that area.

Niagara College receives research funding from various regional, provincial and federal agencies, and that's administered by the college's research and innovation division.

In a release, the college says this supports the hiring of students and gradu-

ates to work alongside faculty researchers in helping industry partners in the marketplace.

Students come from a variety of college's programs such as mechanical engineering technology, culinary innovation and food technology, business administration — marketing, and new media web design.

Nantel said about five years ago, the college started to work with manufacturers in applied research. Before that it was mostly virtual reality, and agriculture/horticulture.

FedDev funding allowed them to take on 15 new projects, "and we took the 15 best ones," he said. "It turned out a whole lot of them were in manufacturing. So we also developed our capabilities in manufacturing over the last few years."

He said the establishment of the teaching winery, brewery and the Canadian Food and Wine Institute expansion "has (also) really helped."

Brock University also got a boost in the survey, moving up to 37 in 2014 from 41st place the year before. It saw sponsored research income jump up by 14.7 per cent over that past year.

University of Toronto again topped that national list.

Brock president Jack Lightstone said the university is also in the top 10 in terms of sponsored research growth over the year, for the second year in a row.

"It's only in 1999 that Brock defined ... being 'research intensive' as its goal," he said.

"So I think given how relatively recently we (identified) that as a core part of our long-term objectives, I am quite pleased with the progress we've made."

"What we've tried to do is some of our research around domains as opposed to the traditional disciplines," said Lightstone. "And we chose these where there is a direct relevance to community development, whether economic, social or cultural."

Some of these trans-disciplinary areas of top research include oncology and viticulture, human health for the elderly and disabled, and the environment sustainability.

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Falls pharmacy robbed

Niagara Regional Police are searching for a man who robbed a Niagara Falls pharmacy Saturday afternoon.
An unknown male entered the store about 4 p.m. with his face disguised demanding narcotics. After

receiving a quantity of drugs he fled.

Police did not originally name the pharmacy, but a staff sergeant confirmed Sunday it was Shoppers Drug Mart on Victoria Avenue.

Anyone with information related to the robbery is asked to phone Det. Const. Jesse Miller at 905-688-4111 ext. 2372. People wishing to remain anonymous can

contact Crime Stoppers Niagara at 1-800-222-8477.

Falls man charged in attempted break-in

A Niagara Falls resident was able to retreat upstairs and call police when two men repeatedly banged on his door early Sunday morning, one of them waving a weapon.

Niagara Regional Police

were called to Temperance Avenue at about 1:45 a.m. Police said the resident went to the front door after hearing several loud bangs. When he looked through the door one of the male suspects shouted: "All of it, all of it" while waving a weapon in hand. The victim retreated back upstairs and called police. The suspects eventually fled the area.

The victim was not injured and did not suffer any loss, police said.

Following an investigation one of the men was identified and arrested.

Charged with one count of attempt break and enter with intent to commit the indictable offence of robbery is Tyler West, 21, of Niagara Falls.

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■ **CRIME:** Impaired driving charges laid**Truck plows through Glendale Ave. Sobeys****KAREN WALTER**
Postmedia Network

New Year's Eve started with a bang at a St. Catharines grocery store when a pickup truck drove through a brick wall and into the produce section.

The 24-hour Sobeys on Glen-

dale Avenue was left with a gaping hole through which ripped insulation, scattered broken bricks and large wall coolers could be seen pushed into the building.

A 17-year-old driver was arrested for numerous charges, including impaired driving by

drugs.

Niagara Regional Police Const. Phil Gavin said the driver was taken to hospital for what was believed to be minor injuries. A 22-year-old passenger was treated at the scene for injuries.

"This is not the way we

wanted to start the New Year's Eve day," Gavin said, explaining police have been pushing a safe driving message throughout the holiday season.

"This could have had dire consequences."

The crash happened about 6 a.m. Thursday on what was one of the busiest grocery shopping days of the year. It shut down the Sobeys at 344 Glendale Ave. in Mountain Locks Plaza for more than eight hours.

Sobeys Ontario spokeswoman Vicki Leung said no customers or employees were injured.

Employees outside alerted customers about the closure as they pulled up Thursday morning while a construction team inside assessed the damage to the produce department.

The white pickup truck with a smashed front end and shattered front window was removed from the parking lot

by tow truck operators.

Leung said New Year's Eve is one of the store's busiest shopping days of the year — about twice as busy as other days. It gets a lot of orders for cakes, platters, fruit baskets and lobsters.

Customer orders for items scheduled for Thursday pickup were still being filled through the day and the store's pharmacy was filling prescriptions for those who called in advance.

SPOTLIGHT on service



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Administrative Office

Insurance - Customer Service Representative
Nation's Insurance Company Ltd. is looking to hire full time CSR position. We are located in Welland/ Niagara Region. This position offers competitive compensation, benefits and a positive office environment.
Duties:
- Assist Producer/Account Executive
- Provide exceptional service to all clients
- Process new business, renewals & endorsements
- Maintain relationships with clients & company underwriters
- Other duties as assigned
Requirements:
- Prior insurance experience an asset but not a requirement
- Interested candidates please submit a resume and cover letter detailing your qualifications and experience to hr@nationsinsurance.ca
Only those resumes considered will be contacted.

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Marking your milestones.

For Obituaries call:
1-877-750-5054
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Fax: 1-866-757-0227
e-mail: milestones@yourlifemoments.ca

Obituaries | In Memoriam | Thanks Births | Celebrations | More

Coming Events

Personal Notices

BABBLING BOB'S are back and together! **BABBLING BOB'S** live spot in East Welland Saturday 84 SuperBowl. Music by Lady D Robinson, Evele D'Beage. Hope to see you there!

CRIMINAL RECORD?
Canadian Record Suspension (Criminal Punition) easily record American easier allows legal entry. Why risk employment, business, travel, licensing, deportation, peace of mind? Free consultation: 1-800-947-2549

A Loving Tribute

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Corner of Maple Ave. and Prince Charles Drive

FRESH PORK PUPPO'S HOT or MILD
ITALIAN SAUSAGE

SAVE
\$4.00
LB.

3.99
LB.

SPECIALS IN EFFECT FRIDAY JANUARY 8TH TO CLOSING THURSDAY JANUARY 14TH, 2016. OPEN THURS. & FRI. 9-9, SAT. 8-6, SUN. 10-5, MON. TUES, WED 9-6.

FRESH
BONELESS SKINLESS
CHICKEN BREASTS

**1/2
PRICE**

3.99
LB.
3 Pkg Limit

CUT FROM CANADA AA AAA BEEF
BONELESS
INSIDE BLADE ROAST

SAVE
\$3.00
LB.

3.99
LB.
2 Roast Limit

CUT FROM OMAHA CHOICE BEEF
BONELESS
**NEW YORK
STRIP STEAKS**
SAVE \$6.00 LB.
9.99 LB.

DELI Specials

Schubert's 1990 Dressed
**TURKEY
BREAST** 1/2 PRICE **6.99** LB.
Dressed
**BLACK FOREST
HAM** 1/2 PRICE **4.99** LB.
Schubert's Deluxe
**MOZZARELLA
CHEESE** SAVE \$2.00 LB. **5.99** LB.

CUT FROM CANADA AAA BEEF
BONELESS
BEEF STEW
SAVE \$4.00 LB.
5.99 LB.

FRESH PORK
BONELESS CENTRE CUT
LOIN CHOPS
SAVE \$3.00 LB.
3.99 LB.

KAWARTHA DAIRY
ICE CREAM
1.5 Litre Tub



SAVE
\$2.00
4.99
3 Tub Limit

ROMAN BRAND
**LASAGNA or
CANNELLONI**
2 lb Tray



SAVE
\$2.00
3.99
4 Pkg Limit

HUNT'S
**SNACK PACK
PUDDINGS**
Pkg of 4



\$1

UNCLE RAY'S
POTATO CHIPS
130/150g Bag



\$1

UNICO
TOMATOES
28oz can



\$1

CASHMERE
BATHROOM TISSUE
Pkg of 16 Double Rolls



1/2 PRICE
5.99
2 Pkg Limit

WONDER BREAD
WHITE or 100% WHOLE WHEAT
675 g Loaf



1.99
9 Loaf Limit

FRESH BAKED
**CHERRY or
BLUEBERRY PIE**
620g



SAVE \$4.00
3.99

MCCAIN THIN CRUST
DELUXE PIZZA
515g



1/2 PRICE **3/\$10**

CALIFORNIA NEW CROP
**SEEDLESS
ORANGES**
SWEET & JUICY!

3.99
DOZEN

PRODUCT OF SPAIN/MOROCCO NO. 1 GRADE
CLEMENTINES
SWEET & JUICY!



5 LB BOX

4.99

NO. 1 GRADE ONTARIO
**WHITE
POTATOES**
10 LB BAG



1.99
3 bag limit

FANCY GRADE ONTARIO
**RED DELICIOUS
APPLES**



\$1 LB.

NO. 1 GRADE ONTARIO
**CARROTS or
COOKING ONIONS**



2 LB Bag

\$1